

ARTICLES  
OF  
VISITATION  
AND  
ENQUIRY

Jo Spem  
7

CONCERNING  
MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL:

Exhibited

To the Ministers, Church-wardens,  
and Sidemen of every Parish

Within the

DIOCESSE of NORWICH

IN THE

Episcopal and Primary Visitation

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

WILLIAM

By Divine Permission Lord Bishop of *Normich*.

---

L O N D O N,

Printed for *R. Clavel* at the *Peacock* in *S. Paul's*



*The Tenor of the Oath to be administred unto,  
and taken by the Church-wardens, and Side-  
men, of every Parish within the Diocese of  
Norwich.*

**Y**OU shall Swear, truly and  
faithfully to execute the Of-  
fice of Church-warden (or Sideman)  
within your Parish; and according  
to the best of your skill and know-  
ledge, present such things and Per-  
sons, as to your knowledge are pre-  
sentable by the Laws Ecclesiastical  
of this Realm.

*So help you God, and the Contents of this  
Book.*

( 1 )

# ARTICLES

OF

## VISITATION and ENQUIRY,

WITHIN

### The Diocels of NORWICH.

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#### T I T. I.

*Concerning Churches and Chappels; the Fabrick, Furniture, and Ornaments thereof.*

I. **I**S your Parish-Church (or Chappel) kept in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs Can. 85. thereof well covered with Lead, Tile, Slate or Straw? The Windows well glazed? The Floors well paved? The Seats well fastened, and conveniently placed? The Utensils and Ornaments, decently kept and preserved from spoil, abuse, and prophanation? And all things so decently ordered, as becometh the House of God?

II. Hath the Steeple, or Tower, or any part of your Church, or Chappel, been pulled or fallen down? Or hath any of the Bells, Lead, or other Materials, or Linw. Utensils formerly belonging thereunto, been embezel'd, Lib. 3. fold, or made away? And by whom? Declare what De Immun. Ecclesf. you know or heard therein?

III. Is there a decent Font of Stone fixed in the ancient and usual place of the Church, for the Administra-

B

tion

tion of Holy Baptisme? And a decent Table for the Holy Communion, placed in the Chancel where it ought to be, with a decent Carpet upon it, to be used in the time of Divine Service; and a fair linnen Cloth at the time of the Administration of the Holy Eucharist; and have you a fair Chalice, or Communion Cup of Silver, with a Cover of the same, and a Plate for the Bread; and a Flaggon of Pewter or purer Mettal, in which the Wine (for the Holy Communion) is set upon the Lords Table.

IV. Have you in your said Church, or Chappel, a  
*Canon 2.* Convenient Seat or Pew for your Minister to read  
 83. Divine Service in? And a Pulpit with a comly Cloth and  
 80. Cushion; A Bible of the last Translation, in a large Volume; and the Book of Common Prayer (established  
 14 *Car. 2.* by the late Act of Uniformity) both fitly and substantially bound? Have you likewise the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority? A Book of Cannons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, set forth *Anno 1603*, by the Kings Authority, and a printed Table of Degrees, wherein severall sorts of Marriages are prohibited?

V. Have you a comely Surplice, for your Minister to wear at all times of his Publick Ministration in the Church, provided and washed at the Charge of your Parish?

VI. Have you a Register Book of Parchment, wherein the Names and Surnames of all such Persons as are Married, Christened, or Buried within your Parish, are duely Registered from time to time, together with the Names and Surnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christened, married or buried, and the Day, Month, or Year, of all such Christnings, Marriages, and Burials is fairly in every page subscribed by your Minister and your selves, and is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Month after the 25 of *March*, brought into the Bishops Registry?

VII. Have

VII. Have you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein are duly recorded, the Names and Licenses of all such Strangers, as are admitted at any time to preach in your Church or Chappel? Have you also a Book of Paper, wherein to write down the Church-Wardens Accounts yearly: Together with a strong Chest, with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all the fore-mentioned Furniture in safe Custody? And lastly, Have you a Bier, and a black Hearse-Cloth, for the more decent Burial of the Dead?

## T I T. II.

*Concerning the Church-yard, the House, Gleabs, Tythes, and other Dues belonging to the Church.*

I. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept from all Prophanation, and Encroachments? Hath any person made any Door into it, out of his own House or Ground? Have any Trees there growing been cut down? How long since, and by whom, and to whose use or behoof?

II. Is there a House belonging to your Parson, Vicar, or Curate; and is the same, with all the out-Houses thereunto belonging, kept in good and sufficient repair? Have any of the Houses been pull'd down, or defaced? and by whom? Hath any Person or Persons encroached upon any Garden, Lands, or Closes belonging to the said Parsonage or Vicaridge-House? Or cut down any Trees growing thereon? Or changed or removed the Antient Marks, or Bounds of the same?

III. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Gleab-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or other Hereditaments belonging to your Parsonage or Vicaridge? As also an Account of such Pensions or Portions of Tithes

or other yearly Profits, (either within or without your Parish) thereunto appertaining? And is there a Copy of the said Terrier and Account delivered in, to be laid up in the Registers Office as the Law requires?

*Linn. lib. 3.  
de rebus  
Eccles.*

IV. Have any Gleab-Lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicaridge been alienated, taken away, or exchanged without consent of the Incumbent, and License of the Ordinary? By whom, and when hath the same been done? And what Dammage it is to your Parsonage or Vicaridge in the yearly value thereof, as you know, believe, or have heard?

### T I T. III.

#### *Concerning the Clergy.*

*Can. 36.*

*Q. Eliz.*

*Injunct. 26*

I. **I**S your Minister (as far as you know or believe) in Holy Orders, according to the usage of the Church of *England*, and is he a Licens'd Preacher, and by whom Licens'd? Or is he supposed or suspected to have obtained either his Orders, or his Benefice by any Simoniackal Compact or undue Practises.

*13 Eliz.*

II. Did your Minister, within two Months after his Induction, publicly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of Religion, established by Law in the Church of *England*? And there publicly declare his Assent thereunto? Did he within the same time, upon some Lords-Day, commonly call'd Sunday, publicly read the appointed Morning and Evening Prayers? And thereafter declare his unfeigned Assent, and Consent to the Use of all things in the Book of Common-Prayer contained, in the Form prescribed in the late Act of Uniformity? And did he within three Months after his Induction, upon some Lords Day, and in the time of Divine Service, publicly

*14 Car. 1.*



lickly and openly read the Declaration required in the said Act? Together with the Ordinary's Certificate of his Subscription to the same?

III. Hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice, with Cure or without? and how far distant from you, and in what Diocess? Is he constantly resident amongst you? <sup>Can. 41.</sup> Or how many Weeks in one Year hath he been absent from you? Hath he a Curate Licens'd by the Bishop, to assist him, able, and sufficient, and conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of *England*? Doth he or his Curate serve in any other Church or Chapel beside? What yearly Stipend doth your Minister allow his Curate? <sup>Can. 47. 48.</sup>

IV. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, read Divine Service on all Sundays and Holy-days, and publickly in the Church administer the Holy Sacraments of Baptisme, and the Lords Supper, and perform all other Ministerial Offices, in such manner and form as is directed by the Book of Common-Prayer, lately Established, and the Act of Uniformity therewith published, without Addition, Diminution or Alteration? And doth he wear a Surplice in his Ministration?

V. Doth your Minister administer the Holy Sacrament of the Lords-Supper, publickly in your Church, at least three times every year, (whereof once at *Easter*) giving solemn notice thereof before-hand, by reading the Exhortation in the Litturgy appointed for that purpose? And doth he endeavour both in his publick Sermons, and Private Conferences, to prevail with his Parishioners to receive it oftner? Doth he on the Lords-day give notice of the Holy-days, and Fasting-days in the Week following, that the People may be put in mind, and incited to resort to publick Prayers in the Church, upon those solemn Occasions? And doth your Minister and Parishioners observe the yearly Perambulations in Rogation

Rogation Week, for the preserving the Lands of the Parish, and desiring Gods Blessing upon the Fruits of the Earth? Doth he also observe the fith of *November*, as also the 30th of *January*, and the 29th of *May*, and also the 6th of *February*, according to the Statutes and Orders set forth by Authority in that behalf.

VI. Doth your Minister every Year, on some Sunday, in your Church or Chappel, publish the Statutes made against prophane Swearing and Cursing, and against the prophanation of the Lords-day, according as it is thereby Enacted and Ordered?

VII. Doth your Minister every Sunday (unless in Case of Sicknes, or other reasonable Impediment) preach in your Church; Or procure a Sermon to be there preached by some other Licensed Preacher; or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority to be read? And doth he constantly at his Prayer before Sermon, pray for the King's Majesty, in his due and legal Stile and Title; for the Queens, and Princesses, and the Royal Family; and for all Arch-Bishops, and Bishops, and other Ecclesiastical Persons, as the Canon enjoyns.

VIII. Doth your Minister diligently examin and instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Catechisme, as the Law requires? And being thus prepared, and of convenient Age, doth he take care to present them to the Bishop to be Confirm'd?

IX. Doth he endeavour to reclaim all Recusants, and Sectaries within your Parish, to the Profession and Practice of the true Religion established in the Church of *England*, and to their bounden Duty, in obeying the Law, and submitting to the Government of the Realm?

X. Doth he refuse, or neglect to visit, comfort, and pray with the Sick in your Parish or to bury the Dead here? Doth he delay the Baptisme of any Infant that is in danger of Death? or Baptise them in any other place than



than the Church, when there is no such dangers? And when they are (in case of necessity) privately Baptized, doth he admonish their Parents (if afterwards they live) that they be brought into the Church, and certifie the Congregation of the Form of Baptism used in private, and proceed thereupon in all points, as the Office of private Baptism directs? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other person of riper years, through the default of your Minister or others, yet remaining Unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he use to Baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, as the Law enjoyns?

XI. Do you know, or have you heard, that your Minister doth preach any false Schismatical or Seditious Doctrine, which may seduce the people into Parties and Factions, to the disturbance of the publick Peace and Unity either of Church or State?

XII. Hath your Minister married any persons in private Houses? or such as being under age, have not the Consent of their Parents, or without the Banes first published on the severall Sundays or Holidays in the Church? Or doth he at any other Hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a License or Dispensation from a competent Judge so to do?

XIII. Doth any person preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? And hath he a License from the Bishop so to do? Doth he before his Lecture read the Divine Service, as the late Act of Uniformity requires? And is he in all respects Conformable to the Rules and Orders of the Church of *England*?

XIV. Doth your Minister or any other (either Minister or Lay-person) hold any Conventicle or private Meetings in any private House or place within your Parish, to which persons of severall Families, above the number of Five do resort, under any pretence of Preaching, or other Religious Exercise contrary to the Laws and Canons in that Case provided?

Can. 73.

XV. Is your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and your Lecturer of a sober, pious, and unblameable life? given to Hospitality and Almsdeeds? Is his Apparel grave and decent as the Canons require? Or is his Conversation in any kind disorderly, or scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Doth he familiarly converse and keep Company with vicious, ungodly, or Excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns, Alehouses, or other Houses of ill fame? Is he a common Gamester, a frequenter of unlawful and indecent Sports? A Swearer, Railer, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at variance, or encourage them to Suits and Contentions? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? Or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person within your Parish, or without? Or doth he use any Traffick or indecent Occupation for filthy lucre sake?

Can. 74.

Can. 76.

XVI. Is there in your Parish any one dwelling, who, being in Holy Orders, hath quitted his Profession, and turned Lay-man? Or any Unlicensed Minister that hath been deprived, ejected, or suspended for enormity, or other evil manners? If so, declare what you know of such persons.

## TIT. IV.

*Concerning Parishioners.*

Can. 11.

I. **I**S there in your Parish any known or reputed Heretick, Schismatick or Separatist? Any notorious or suspected Atheists, any prophane persons, depravers, disturbers, or contemners of the Publick Worship and Service of God, and of the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of *England* by Law established? Any Recusant or Dissenter that refuse to come to your Parish Church,

Church, and joyn in the Prayers and Service of the Church, or that makes profession of any way of Worship than what is Established in the Church of England?

II. Is there in your Parish any person that lyeth under the common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Any Drunkards or Sweaters, or Blasphemers of Gods Holy Name? Any Slanders, or sowers and promoters of strife and discord among their Neighbours? Or lastly, any whose life and manners is contrary to Godliness, peace, and honesty?

*Can. 109.*

III. Do any of your Parish upon Sundays, or Holydays, follow their ordinary Labour, or compel or permit their Servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or Wares sold at such times? Or do any persons in your Parish suffer Men to Tipple or Game in their Houses upon those days?

*5, 6 Ed. 6.*

*Cap. 3.*

*Can. 13.*

*29 Car. 2.*

IV. Doth every person inhabiting or sojourning in your Parish (without a reasonable impediment) duly resort unto your Church or Chappel upon every Sunday and Holy-day appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there abide quietly, and reverently, during the whole time of Divine Service, and Preaching, or other Service of God there used? Or are there any among you who come only to hear Sermons, and not to joyn in the Common Prayers of the Church?

*1 Eliz. 2.*

*Can. 18.*

*Can. 111.*

V. Are there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be Baptized publickly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? Or do they send them to be Baptized by any other Minister in any other place, or after any other Form than is appointed by the Book of Common Prayer by Law Established? Or are there any Infants or persons of riper years in your Parish, who remain Unbaptized?

*Rabr. Bap.*

*Can. 59, 60.* VI. Do the Housholders in your Parish cause their  
 61. Children and Servants to learn their Catechism, and  
 to give an account thereof unto your Minister (when  
 he requires it of them) openly in the Church upon  
 Sundays and Holidays, as in the Book of Common-  
 Prayer is appointed; that when they are well instru-  
 cted in the same, they may be Confirmed by the  
 Bishop?

VII. Is there in your Parish any person, who be-  
 ing sixteen years of age, and doth not receive the  
*Can. 112.* 21. Sacrament of the Lords-Supper, at least three times in  
 27. the year, of which *Easter* is always to be accounted  
 28. one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same  
 57. kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister,  
 repairing for it to other Ministers and places abroad?  
 Or are there any strangers that forsake their own  
 Churches, and usually repair to yours for to receive  
 the Holy Sacrament?

VIII. Have you any in your Parish that be de-  
*Can. 65.* nounced and declared Excommunicate for any Crime  
 committed? How long have they been so? And do  
 any of your Parish keep society with them before  
 they be absolved and reconciled to the Church?

IX. Are there any living in your Parish as Man  
*Can. 107.* and Wife, who are within the degrees of Marriage pro-  
 hibited? Or any that being lawfully married, and not  
 separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit  
 together?

X. Are there any married Women in your Parish,  
*Rub. c. p.* who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth,  
 refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving to God in  
 the Church? And when they come so to do, do they  
 come decently apparelled, and make their Offerings  
 according to custom?

th. Are there any in your Parish who refuse to pay  
 their

their *Easter-Offerings* or Duties to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute and pay the Rate assessed upon them for the repair of your Church or Chappel; and for the providing of such Books, Furniture and Ornaments as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there?

XII. Do any in your Parish refuse to bury their Dead according to the Rites of the Church of *England*? Are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? Or any Goods administered without a due Grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable use, what are those Legacies, and how are they bestowed?

XIII. Is there any strife or contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Or have any of them erected new Pews in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

# T I T. V.

## *Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.*

I. **H**AVE you belonging to your Church or Chappel, a fit Parish-Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of sober Life and Conversation, and able to perform his Duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister; and doth he diligently attend him in all Divine Offices; audibly repeating, and making the Responses and Suffrages

frages as he is in the Liturgy directed? And are his Wages duly paid him, or who withholdeth the same from him?

Gen. 67.

II. Doth he or the Sexton (if there be any such in your Parish) diligently lock the Doors of your Church, and see them opened at due times? Doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from Dust and all other Annoyances? Doth he toll the Bells at the due and accustomed Hours, before Morning and Evening Prayers, that the People may be warned to repair to the Church? Doth he (upon notice given him) toll a Bell, when any Person is passing out of this Life, as hath been accustomed, to the end the Neighbours may be put in mind to recommend the dying Person to the Grace and Favour of God and of their own Mortality?

## T I T. VI.

*Concerning Hospitals, Schools, Schoolmasters, Physicians, Chyrurgeons, and Midwives.*

43 Eliz.

I. **I**S there in your Parish any Hospital, Almshouse, or Free-School, without special Visitors appointed? Who is the Founder or Patron thereof, and what is the yearly Revenue? And is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? And are the Revenues thereof duly employed according to the intencion of the Founder, and the Tenor of such Statutes and Ordinances as have been made in pursuance of the same?

II. Doth any keep a publick or private School in your



your Parish ? Is he allowed so to do by the Ordinary ? Is he of sober Life and pious Conversation, and conformable to the Doctrine and Discipline by Law Established ? Doth he teach his Scholars the Catechism set forth by Authority ? Doth he upon Sundays and Holy-days, repair to your Church or Chappel, and cause his Scholars so to do, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently in the Church, during the time of Divine Service ? And doth he teach them good Manners, Sobriety, Modesty, and Obedience, as well as other Learning ? Can. 77. 79

III. Doth any Man or Woman in your Parish, take upon them to practise Physick, or Chirurgery, or any Woman exercise the Office of a Midwife, without being first examin'd and approv'd, and thereunto Licens'd by the Ordinary ? 3 Hen. 8. 11.

## T I T. VII.

### *Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.*

I. **H**AVE any Abuses, or Offences, presented by the Church-Wardens or others, been suppressed or left unpunished by any Officers exercising Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction within this Diocess ? Do they unnecessarily delay, or protract any Cause brought before them ? Do they vexatiously Cite any into their Courts for greediness of Gain, or other undue Ends ? Do they demand, exact, or take unlawful Fees, or in any kind vex, grieve, or oppress his Majesties good Subjects ? Can. 135. 134.

II. Is

II. Is there a Table of Fees publicly fastned and set up in the Consistory, or Ecclesiastical Court, to which  
*Can. 136.* you are called to appear and make your Presentments, that so every one may know what Fees he ought to pay as the Law requires?

III. Have any Apparitors taken any reward for the concealing of any offence, or the avoiding the punishment or reformation of Offenders? Or do they summon any to appear at the Consistory, without Citation first had from the Ecclesiastical Judge?

IV. Hath any Summ of Money been lately or heretofore paid to any Ecclesiastical Officer for Commutation of Penance? Declare what was the Summ? And to whom  
*Can. 157.* was it paid, and to what use appointed or employed?  
*Cap. 3.* And whether such Commutations have been taxed and decreed without the order and approbation of the Bishop of the Diocess?

If you know of any other Default, or Crime of Ecclesiastical Cognisance, you are (by vertue of your Oath) to present the same.

## TIT. VIII.

*Queries to be put to the Minister concerning the Church-Wardens and Sides-men.*

I. **A**RE the Church-Wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent  
*Can. 89.* of the Minister and Parishoners; or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishoners; or as the Custom of the Parish is?

II. Is

II. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their due Accompts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-Wardens the Moneys remaining in their Hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel? *Can. 89.*

III. Do the Church-Wardens and Sides-Men take diligent care, and see who of the Parishoners be absent from the Divine Service and Sermon in your Church or Chappel, on Sundays and Holidays; and if they find any of them to have absented themselves without a sufficient cause, do they, by Warrant from some Justice of the Peace, levy of them, by way of distress upon their Goods, the sum of 12 d. for every such day of their absence, according to the Act of Parliament in that case made and provided; and do they distribute the several Summs, so levied, among the Poor of your Parish, according to the Law? *Can. 90.* *1 Q. Eliz. 20.*

IV. Do they present them that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? *Can. 18.*  
Do they suffer none to stand idle, or talk together in the Church-Porch, or to walk in the Church, or Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices? *Can. 19.* *Can. 90.*

V. Do they suffer no misbehaviour or disorder to be done by Men, Women, or Servants, or Children, in your Church or Chappel? Are they careful that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion-Table? Do they permit no Minstrels, no Morrice-dancers, no Dogs, Hawks, or Hounds to be brought or come into the Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation? *Can. 18.* *Can. 19.* *Can. 88.*

VI. Do they, against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants, at the Parish-Charge? *Can. 20.*

D.

VII. Do

Can. 52. <sup>2</sup> VII. Do they cause all Strangers that preach in your Church or Chappel to subscribe their Names the same day, in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the Name of the Bishop that Licensed them to preach in his Diocese, and do they permit no other to preach?

Can. 119. VIII. Have they (the Church-Wardens and Side-men) now Sworn, given in a true Answer unto all these Articles of Enquiry, in all their several Titles taken sufficient time to draw up their Presentments, and therein consulted with you their Minister for your faithful assistance?

*William Normich.*

**W**E do not by virtue of this Oath, require or expect that the Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or any one of the Church-Wardens or Side-men of any Parish should detect, impeach, or accuse himself, of any Fault enquired of in these Articles. Nevertheless, the Faults of any one of them, may, and ought to be presented by the rest; and if the Church-Wardens or Side-men will not do their Duty herein, yet the Minister of every Parish (or in his absence the Curate) may and ought to present such Persons and Things as want due reformation; for upon them is the chief Case incumbent of suppressing Sin and Wickedness, and all Irregularities in their Parishes: And all of both Sorts know assuredly, that as the Conscientious Discharge of their Duty herein, is the best and swiftest means, whereby publick Disorders and Offences may come to be punished and reformed; so if they wilfully refuse

or neglect to discover such things; as either they themselves know, or by common Fame have heard, to have been, or to be amiss in their Parish, the Guilt will lye at their doors, and in such Cases the Bishop and his Officers will proceed against them in their Courts, with all the severity which the Law enables them to use in such Cases.

*William Norwich.*

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**F I N I S.**

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*in case of Serjeant's death, the Court will proceed to the next day, and so on, until the Court is re-assembled, and the business of the Court is finished.*